

Business Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement

(DOE/EIS-0183)

Responsible Agency: U.S. Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Title of Proposed Action: Business Plan

States and Provinces Involved: Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and British Columbia

Abstract: BPA issued a Business Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in June 1994 and a Supplemental Draft EIS in February 1995. Since then, the business environment has continued to change, and commenters have offered additional opinions and information which have been considered in the preparation of this Final EIS (FEIS). The FEIS focuses on the analysis of relationships among BPA, the utility market, and the affected environment.

To participate successfully in an increasingly competitive and dynamic electric utility environment and to continue to meet specific public service obligations as a Federal agency, BPA needs adaptive policies to guide its marketing efforts (including power and transmission products, energy services such as conservation, and pricing mechanisms) and its administration of other statutory obligations such as its fish and wildlife responsibilities. In selecting among alternative ways to meet this need, BPA will consider the following purposes: achieve a set of Strategic Business Objectives; competitively market BPA's power and transmission products and services, both within the Pacific Northwest and outside the region, and assure that BPA remains competitive; provide for equitable treatment of Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife in relation to other purposes of the Federal Columbia River Power System; give energy conservation the priority accorded it under the Northwest Power Act, and achieve BPA's share of the conservation target under the Council's regional goal; establish rates that are easy to understand, easy to administer, stable, and fair; recover BPA's costs through rates; continue to meet statutory and treaty mandates and contractual obligations; avoid adverse environmental impacts; and establish and maintain productive government-to-government relationships with Indian Tribes.

The EIS discusses 19 specific issues and their effects over the range of Business Plan alternatives. The six alternatives are: Status Quo (No Action), BPA Influence, Market-Driven (Proposed Action), Maximize Financial Returns, Minimal BPA, and Short-Term Marketing. These alternatives may be varied by replacing intrinsic elements with one or more policy modules responding to key issues (fish and wildlife administration, rate design, Direct Service Industry service options, and conservation/renewable resources). The alternatives and modules were tested for impacts on BPA's marketing against two widely differing "endpoint" scenarios for operation of the Columbia River system. The alternatives were compared in terms of market responses, which include resource development, resource operations, transmission development and operation, and consumer responses. These market responses were then used to estimate potential environmental impacts.

Although the environmentally preferred alternatives can be identified—Status Quo and BPA Influence—environmental differences among the alternatives appear to be relatively small. Other business aspects, including loads and rates, showed greater variation among the alternatives. BPA's ability to achieve the purposes for action would be weakened under the environmentally preferred alternatives.

To request additional copies of the EIS, please contact:

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Copies may also be obtained by calling BPA's toll-free document request line: 1-800-622-4520.

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